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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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LET'S SUPPORT BASKETBALL AT A. H. S.

There were many long, lean years when Appomattox High School was one of the few sizeable schools without gymnasium facilities. But now A. H. S. has an excellent gymnasium and adequate equipment has been set up in the huge indoor sports arena. The basketball season gets under way next week, with three home games. The gymnasium has accomodations for 750 spectators at home games. Prospects are for a good basketball team, and there are 13 home games scheduled. Basketball is among, if not the leading drawing game in the nation. We hope that the A. H. S. basketball teams will be able to play before capacity audiences this season.

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BURDENS OF THE PRESIDENCY

As a result of the heart attack suffered by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, White House aides and writers have suggested that a way should be found to reduce the staggering burden which is the lot of the President of the United States. We believe these suggestions have merit because a President of the United States is up against perhaps the toughest executive job in the world today.

We are not convinced, however, that Mr. Eisenhower's heart attack was a result of overworking in the White House. Tension, resulting from his responsibilities, and the fact that the President had been a military man all his life and was in a new type of job, added to the fact that he had engaged in what might have been over-strenuous physical exertion the day before, all contributed to the President's heart attack—in our opinion.

But there is no denying that the burden of being President of the United States is a terrific one and the medical history of those selected to serve as President proves the point. One of the differences between the U. S. system and the British system, for example, is the fact that the President of the United States is both the Chief of State and the Chief Executive officer in the Government. In England the King is the Chief of State and the Prime Minister is the Chief Executive officer, thereby separating the official functions from the actual operations of Government, permitting these duties, and the time they consume, to be divided.

We believe some progress can be made toward lightening the burdens of the U. S. Presidency, but we are not optimistic that the job can be made primarily one of delegated powers. General Eisenhower is most able at delegating authority, and the conclusion we reach is that the job of being President of the United States will continue to be a back-breaking job, in spite of anything that can be done about it. There are too many decisions the President must make, and we see no way of shifting this burden to others.

We say this with no effort to outline the course of action President Eisenhower should follow in 1956, since we are confident he will fully recover and be able to run again, if he so desires.

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DECEMBER

The end of the year is upon us. December, the last month—and the tenth month in the ancient Roman calendar—is the closing stanza of a record year of prosperity—1955.

To Americans, December means many things, though recently they recall December 7th, 1941. They think of Christmas, the year's greatest religious observance, which brings holidays to millions of school and college students everywhere, as the climax of the year and often of the Winter season.

To Americans, December is the birthday anniversary month of Martin Van Buren, who was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., on December 5, 1782; the month that President Wilson arrived in France, in 1918; the month in which George Washington, the Father of his Country, died, on December 14, 1799; the month of the Boston Tea Party, which occurred on December 16, 1773; the month in which the Wright Brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk, N. C., on December 17, 1903; the month in which the battle of Trenton, N. J., occurred, when the British were defeated on December 26th, 1776; and the month in which Woodrow Wilson was born, at Staunton, Va., on December 28, 1856.

Americans also remember December as the month in which Andrew Johnson was born, on December 29, 1808, at Raleigh, N. C. The month is also the birthday month of Joel Chandler Harris, beloved writer of children's stories.

But the greatest event of December, of course, is Christmas and the holidays which precede and follow it. We hope that Christmas will not continue to be more and more exploited for financial reasons. We hope that the real meaning of this religious observance, and its true spirit, will be remembered by all.

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Churches are built for thinking human beings. If you are one of them, the bell tolls for you.

* * * * * *

Few friendships avoid at least one acid test.

WHY THE FARMER NEEDS HELP

The Department of Agriculture has predicted that the farmers' share of the consumers' food dollar next year will be forty cents. This compares with forty-one cents in 1955 and forty-three cents in 1954.

From the above forecast, one can easily see that the farmers' share of the consumer dollar is steadily shrinking. For numerous examples in recent years have proven that the middle man and not the farmer, was the man reaping the major share of the profits from the American consumer's food dollars.

The Department of Agriculture says that marketing and transportation costs next year will average near the record high posed for these services in 1955. This year farmers found that marketing charges were up three per cent over 1954, while prices for farm products were lower.

Therefore, farmers' net realized income during the July-August-September quarter of this year was at an approximate yearly rate of $10,300,000,000. This is four per cent below the three-month period, April-May-June of this year. It is five per cent under the third quarter of 1954.

Since retail prices of farm goods averaged one per cent lower this year, and since the marketing costs rose during the year (and may rise further in 1956), the farmer is in for even rougher sledding next year. These statistics prove that the farmer is up against very sad economic realities, when just about every other segment of the economy is booming.

Since these figures are released by the Department of Agriculture, under a Republican Administration, there is no reason to doubt them. Since the same administration also releases figures concerning business and trade, and since labor, manufacturing and other segments of the economy are all reported to be experiencing record prosperity, the farmers' plight is seen in its true perspective.

President Eisenhower and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson must either come up with something to reverse this trend, or risk defeat in 1956. The farmer has been experiencing reduced earnings for three years or more, and it makes little difference to him that the slide began under President Truman. The truth is that it is time that somebody looked after his interests and bolstered his net income in today's record prosperity.

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We know a merchant who failed to move his Christmas stock last year, because he "saved" the money he should have spent in advertising his wares.

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One should be careful in offering advice on buying stocks or investing savings. Someone is liable to take it.

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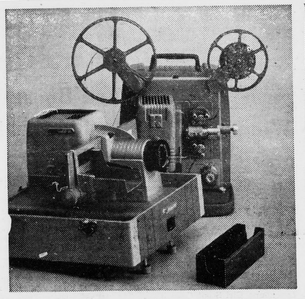

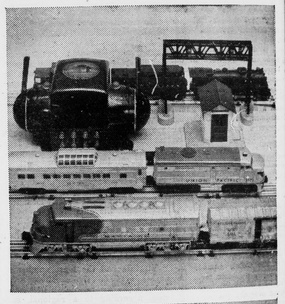

Advertisement

From where I sit ... *by* Joe Marsh

Easy Coins
A Quick Profit

Hear about Easy Roberts last Friday? I helped him count his money—both before and after—so believe me, the story's true.

Easy was on the way to the bank to deposit his "cookie jar" savings—exactly $24.95 in nickels, dimes and quarters. He had them in a paper bag and as we crossed Main Street the bottom fell out.

Money went flying. Passers-by pitched in to help recover the coins. Later on when Easy counted up, he had $25.05. The "search party" had turned up all of Easy's money *plus* ten cents someone else had lost!

From where I sit, I wouldn't want to try this "Easy" way to make money. Usually, it takes time for a bank roll to grow . . . just as it takes time for a friendship to grow. But by respecting a neighbor's rights—including his right to drink coffee, tea, beer or buttermilk, whichever and whenever he chooses—it's wonderful the solid friendship you can build. You can "bank" on that.

Joe Marsh

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This Christmas...
Make It A Gift Of Fun!

A movie or slide projector to capture memorable family events . . . an electric train to delight the youngsters—and dad! . . . a whiz of an electric sewing machine for mom . . . complete electric drill set for Mr. Make-It-Yourself. This is just a sample of the fun-generating gifts you can choose from this Christmas.
Best of all—such gifts of fun develop family group activity. Everyone will enjoy the products of dad's electric work shop. Mother and daughter sewing teams become a reality when the machine you give can perform most any stitching task. Of course, good camera equipment is all it takes to open up the fascinating world of picture-taking pleasure.
Whether you decide on the gift itself or a handy gift certificate—if you give an electric gift of fun—everyone shares in the enjoyment!

Dealers throughout the city stock fun-generating electric gifts!

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Lesson Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Luke 9:7-62
Devotional Reading: Mark 10:35-45

His Demands

Lesson for December 4, 1955

CHRISTIAN living is not a matter of vague general good will. A character in a movie remarked: "I'm not a mean man. If I heard that my neighbor's children had been eaten by wolves, I would feel real sorry." Well, of course that would make him a Christian. (He turned out to be the villain, by the way.) But there seems to be a confusion of church members and others who think that being a Christian is something he nothing more than being mildly at peace with the world . . . a kind of do-nothing. Being a Christian is a much more demanding thing. And Christ's demands are Christ's demands. He is not a trademark, but a servant of a Founder beaming down benevolently from the wall. He is the living Christ, Son of God and Son of God. He makes demands on his disciples, and he has a right to make them.

Dr. Foreman

Among those who were closest to Jesus were disciples, those with whom he had the greatest pains, were called Disciples. Now the least word "disciple" can mean is "learner." The first demand that Christ makes on us who would call ourselves Christians, the demand necessary to all others, is that we learn of him. We never should assume that we know all about Him—His character, his teachings, His purpose. It is a sobering question: How much of our behavior, our attitudes, our thinking, our various fields, our relationships with other people — how much of this did we learn from Christ? And how much did we copy from other persons, and how much is our own invention?

Further, the demand Christ makes is a decision. This in three parts: decision for him, decision about him, decision with him. It is only these last two that are treated in this week's passage from Luke. The decision for Christ is the point at which one begins to be a disciple. But beyond that, the Christian disciple has to decide, and act accordingly, about some questions that are not vitally. One is the question about Christ which Jesus put to his disciples. "Who do men say that I am?" Jesus put this question only after they had been with him for some time. But his question can be answered at any time, and it must be answered often. If we have any title to use, we use "Christian." How then do we take Jesus Christ? Do we depend on what answer we give to the question: What do we think of him? Who and what is he? How fully we know his answer, the more seriously we must take him. Is he a dreamer, an impractical idealist, a child of his age, important, but now such a man as he sadly neglect? Is he a prophet, a stirring leader of men? Or, as Peter dared to say, is he the Son of the living God? If the last, he has more to us with the authority of one man's opinion, than to speak as an ancient sage. To see he speak with the voice of the Almighty? He demands decision.

Having decided we have answered the first demands, for discipleship and decision, we may be ready for the second. (This is the order in which he spoken of just now.) We shall pay very little attention to the first if we have not answered the other two. If we are only learners we shall not be learners long, or we shall misunderstand. If we think less of ourselves we ought to think, otherwise we will seem egotistic, unrealistic, suicidal. It is the Spirit of God who has the right to make such a demand. It is nothing less than denial of self to be a cheap substitute for what is sometimes misunderstood and called "self-denial." It may mean no more than to do without ice cream for a week or without some luxury. Denial of self is to be different entirely. Jesus spoke of a crucifixion. The cross was to be always the last mile. To deny self is to cease being the center of the universe. To "deny myself last." It is to crucify myself, as Paul says he has to God. It means that Christ liveth in me."

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NEW BOOKS IN COUNTY LIBRARY

SMILING REBEL, by Harnett T. Kane, is the story of Belle Boyd, the most glamorous spy of the Civil War. At seventeen her career began when she shot a Yankee soldier who was trying to raise the Union flag over her family's house in Martinsburg, Virginia. This book is filled with high suspense, unexpected swists, humor, and romance—a story about a war in which chivalry played almost as important a part as courage, and in which secrets were as deadly as bullets. Lady of Arlington and Spies for the Blue and Gray are two others of Mr. Kane's works.

SILVER LEOPARD, by F. van Wyck Mason, is set in the time of the First Crusade. This is the story of an Earl and his twin sister, Rosamund, who fled from England because of King William II. Since Sir Edmund while Earl of Arundel had become one of the Christian army's foremost paladins, he took the oath of the Crusades after his departure from his native country, and later went to the Holy Land with his band of Silver Leopard. This novel is considered as Mr. Mason's most exciting and historical writing. He also wrote Proud New Flags, Golden Admiral, and Blue Hurricane.

FAMILY TONSILECTOMY

Richmond, Va.- Mrs. Earl Williams stayed at the Richmond Eye Hospital with the three children of the family—Earl Jr., 11; David, 8; and Elizabeth, 4, who had just had their tonsils removed. Papa Williams went over to the animal hospital nearby to be with Danny, the family's 9-month-old collie pup, who also had his tonsils removed. It seems the dog was having some throat trouble and losing his appetite just like the kids, so he had his tonsile removed, too.

Soviet opposes revision of the United Nation's Charter.

In FASHION now

Swimwear designers are busy deciding what you will be wearing at the beach next summer. The California designers are out to create a land of make-believe on the beach.

One well-known designer is going in for the high-in-front, low-in-back strapped knit suits. Many have multi-dark striped kafton coats with Middle East-inspired side slits.

Another line is called the "sphinx." This type suit has the Pharaoh's collar and apron skirt in swimmable lastex. Another version, complete with jewels and spangles and such that take to water, will make a hit. This suit will sell for about $65.

Co-ordination has gone over so big with the ladies that the swimwear designers are applying this spirit to their line. A good many swim suits will have matching print bath towels, beach coats, hats, bags and even shoes.

Skirts and jackets co-ordinated to make a street outfit will be the order of the day. European designers are going to town in this department. Some evening dresses will be actually a swim suit with a long skirt. These are sugested for evenings at the beach or around the pool—a popular way to entertain during the summer.

Straplessness will not be smart the coming summer. All collections point up the fact that straps are meant to be more than just anchoring ideas. Many swimsuits have a sweater look that was inspired by tennis fashions. Many designs will feature detachable trim or a neckline that converts to halter or strapless summers with ease.

Easier mortgage credit is seen for 1956 housing.

Richwood

Richwood, Nov. 29.- "Better is a little with right conscience than great revenues without right."
—Proverb.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Ferguson and daughter, Judy, of Lynchburg, and Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wooldridge visited Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davis at Pamplin.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Moore and family and Mr. Wrench, of Wellington, Ohio spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hunter and family.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Ferguson and daughter, Judy and Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wooldridge were the supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Brannon and family Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Marsh, at Gladys.

Mr. G. T. Marsh is spending a few days in Lynchburg with relatives.

Mrs. L. M. Ferguson and daughter, Judy and Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wooldridge and Mrs. G. P. Brannon and daughters visited with Mr. and Mrs. Esmond Pugh and family last Thursday afternoon.

Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey told a Republican fund-raising dinner in Los Angeles that a Republican victory in 1956 was necessary to continue the country's "unequalled prosperity."

Adlai E. Stevenson, now an avowed candidate for the nomination for President, announced he would enter the Democratic Presidential primary in Minnesota next March 20.

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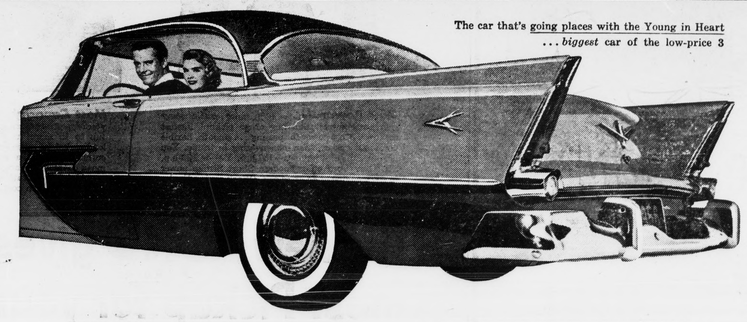

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